



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY

- WHEREAS: High-quality afterschool programs provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences to help more than 280,000 of Georgia's young people from Pre-K to 12th grade develop social, emotional, physical, and academic skills. These opportunities also support working families and build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of young people; and
- WHEREAS: Many children have parents who work outside of the home, and it is imperative that these young citizens have access to a safe environment during the hours after school and before their parents or guardians return home from work; and
- WHEREAS: Afterschool programs operate at a variety of institutions including schools, community-based organizations, recreation centers, libraries, and faith-based organizations. In addition, Georgia's state agencies, including the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services and Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, play a critical role in supporting afterschool programs; and
- WHEREAS: Afterschool programs allow students to explore new interests, gain confidence, and develop workforce skills, specifically in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. Research shows that afterschool programs improve school day attendance, increase high school graduation rates, reduce juvenile crime, decrease drug and alcohol dependency, and promote healthy lifestyles; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia has worked to ensure that all of Georgia's youth have access to a well-rounded education, which includes a variety of educational experiences and non-academic factors that impact student achievement. With children spending more than 80 percent of their waking hours outside of formal classroom learning environments, afterschool programs are an essential aspect for improving outcomes for Georgia's youth, decreasing the achievement gap, supporting Georgia's economy, and giving parents peace of mind while they are at work; and
- WHEREAS: On October 25, 2018, citizens and organizations across the nation will recognize Lights On Afterschool, a celebration of afterschool programs, to promote awareness of the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families, and communities. Our state is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by supporting expanded learning opportunities to help prepare young people to compete in the workforce of tomorrow; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 25, 2018, as LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 12th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF